FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 1, 2002 CONTACT: Milissa Reierson

Information Officer (615) 253-4251 (O) (615) 599-3070 (H)

JACKSBORO – Governor Don Sundquist along with Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Michael Magill today announced the grand opening of the Tennessee Career Center Campbell County, noting the aim of the comprehensive employment center system to serve both employers and workers.

"These centers are where people connect with jobs and employers find qualified workers," Sundquist announced. "The centers are the cornerstone of our Workforce Development initiative with the goal of making Tennessee's labor force the best in the nation."

Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner Michael E. Magill addressed the crowd at Friday's ceremony. "The Tennessee Career Center Campbell County is one of the most comprehensive centers in the state bringing together a wide range of services all at one location. It truly exemplifies the One-Stop concept," Magill explained.

"In the past, employment efforts have been too scattered and have too often left out the employer's needs. The new network of Tennessee Career Centers are changing that and will provide one central place to meet employment needs." Magill went on to say,

"Because of adjustments our economy has gone through and workers losing their jobs through no fault of their own, this seamless workforce development system is even more critical today. These career centers allow us to leverage our resources and better utilize our funds thereby reducing our operational costs."

United States Senators Bill Frist and Fred Thomspon, and United States Representative Van Hilleary were invited to the ceremony along with State Senators Lincoln Davis and Randy McNally and State Representatives William Baird and Mark Goins.

The center, which addresses the workforce development needs of the community, is the result of a partnership between the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Human Services, Adult Education, and the East Tennessee Human Resources Agency, Administrator for Title I Workforce Investment Act region four.

**NOTE**: Media coverage is invited.

--30--

(02-027)

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los soliciten.